

Minutes of the Jefferson County Historic Sites Preservation Commission Meeting
Waterloo Historical Society Museum
130 E. Polk Street
Thursday, September 15, 2016
7:00 p.m.

Call to Order: A meeting of the Jefferson County Historic Sites Preservation Commission (JCHSPC) was called to order at 7:22pm, presided over by Chairperson Cindy Arbiture.

Attendance: Commission Members: Cindy Arbiture, Robert Birmingham, Julia Ince, Ed Morse, Michael Opager; Absent: John Molinaro; Members of the general public: Joan Hyer, Maureen Giese

Compliance with the Open Meetings Law: Arbiture stated that the meeting was in compliance with the open meetings law.

Review of Agenda: The agenda was reviewed with no changes.

Approval of Minutes of August 18, 2016 JCHSPC Meeting: The minutes from August 18 were reviewed. Motion made to approve minutes by Morse, seconded by Birmingham. Motion carried by unanimous approval.

Communications:

Arbiture received a communication from Brian Lamers, Jefferson County Finance Director, reporting that Jefferson County received a check for \$10,000 from the Wisconsin Historical Society (WHS) to cover the payments to Legacy, Inc., for the completed applications of the Keller (now Beck) Farmstead and the Lorine Niedecker Cottage for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

Arbiture reported that she emailed Brian Lamers, Jefferson County Administrator, to get an updated report on our Jefferson County account balance which is currently at \$2,498.80.

Arbiture reported that she communicated with the WHS about the timber frame house at W731 Carlin Trail, Palmyra, WI 53156, known as the B. F. Holmes House. The WHS stated: “there are too many unknowns about this house and the degree of alteration. Because it was moved, it is very likely that the house was altered after it was brought to Jefferson County. Because its primary potential significance would be for its method of construction...” It would require a great deal more research before it could be determined that it met the criteria for nomination to the NRHP.

Arbiture reported on emails she received from commission member Ince. Ince shared information about two potential new commission members, Peggy Polk and Steve Mode. However, neither one was able to come to this meeting due to conflicting schedules. Arbiture said they may be good candidates because of their real estate background and hopes that they will be able to attend a future meeting. Ince also passed on information about a communication with Joan Evans, who lives in the Munro Schoolhouse, a historic school house in Hebron Township that dates to the 1860's. Evans inquired into

the potential for her house being listed on the NRHP. Ince informed Evans that her house was not listed as “eligible” on the county survey, however, Arbiture pointed out that could possibly be challenged. Ince invited Evans to one of our meetings and Arbiture put her on our mailing list for meeting notifications. Evans also had some questions about the cemetery next to her property. Arbiture asked Ince to inform Evans that if she has any concerns over the cemetery’s upkeep and preservation that she should contact the burial sites department of the WHS. Julia said she would follow-up with contacting Joan Evans.

Arbiture reported on a communication with Ann Engelman about the application for nomination of the Lorine Niedecker Cottage to the NRHP. The application for nomination has been completed and Engelman wished to put out a press release, but Arbiture felt she should hold off on the press release until the application for nomination of the Keller (now Beck) Farmstead to the NRHP was completed, so both properties could be in the press release together.

Citizens Comments:

Maureen Giese, president of the Waterloo Historical Society, welcomed us to her society’s museum. She stated that she was happy to hear that our commission is going around to have our meetings at various historical societies. Giese shared information on the progress of the steeple repairs at the museum, the society’s communications with the WHS in working toward accomplishing these repairs, and the promotion of the society.

Old Business

Edits to the application for nomination of the Keller (now Beck) Farmstead to the NRHP:

After receiving communications from our commission concerning the accuracy of the ownership and dating of the Keller Farmhouse as reported in Legacy, Inc.’s original application for nomination of the property to the NRHP, Legacy, Inc. conducted further research and completed edits to the application. Arbiture reported that the edits to the application have been completed and the property is now known as the Beck Farmstead, however, our commission has not been sent a copy of the edited application.

Review of JCHSPC ordinance edits, to comply with Wisconsin State Act 176:

Arbiture reported that our commission was prepared to have the referendum for the new language in our ordinance go forward to the county board for approval, but commission member Morse, who is a county board member, felt that the new language still contained issues that should be clarified before taking the referendum to the county board. It was agreed that Arbiture and Morse will meet with J. Blair Ward of the Jefferson County Corporation Counsel to forge new language and report back to our commission.

JCHSPC Annual Report submitted to the County Board:

Arbiture shared the 2016 JCHSPC Annual Report. She highlighted some of our accomplishments of the past year and reported that she submitted the report to the county board on September 13th.

Communication from Joe Nehmer, Director of the Jefferson County Parks Department, Concerning the Pohlmann Park Silo:

Birmingham made a motion to move this item down on the agenda, seconded by Opager, motion carried by unanimous approval.

Letter of Intent Submitted to WHS for Two New Application Requests for the NRHP:

Arbiture reported that on September 9th she submitted a letter of intent to WHS for NRHP application funding for two properties. One property is the Stony Brook School located at N7609 Airport Road, Waterloo, WI. The other property is the B. F. Holmes house located at W731 Carlin Trail, Palmyra, WI, however, through recent communication with the WHS (see communications above), we now understand that this second property is no longer seen as meeting the criteria for nomination to the NRHP.

Request for quote submitted to contractors for two NRHP applications:

Arbiture reported that requests for quotes were submitted to two contractors for the two NRHP applications mentioned in the last item. We have received a quote from one contractor for both properties, however one of the properties has since been deemed as no longer meeting the criteria for nomination as reported in the last item. We received a quote for the Stony Brook School property from another contractor. Arbiture discussed the fact that one of the quotes for the Stony Brook School came in 50% higher than a quote from the same contractor in the recent past. Arbiture reported that she communicated with this contractor, but they would not lower their quote. Arbiture explained that, as reported in our commission's August meeting minutes, Brian Lamers, Finance Director and Ben Wehmeier, Jefferson County Administrator, asked our commission for a projected budget for next year and Arbiture informed them that we are looking at \$10,000 for the preparation of nominations for two properties to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). But given the large increase in the quote from one of the contractors, if we use this contractor we would not be able to stick to that projected budget amount and still begin the process for the nomination of two properties. A discussion was held concerning our options. It was agreed that at this meeting we do not need to decide on which contractor we will use. The next step in the process, after the letter of intent mentioned in the above item, is to submit the Historic Preservation Fund Subgrant Application to the WHS. Arbiture stated that she will send the commission members a copy of one of our past subgrant applications so that we know for certain what is needed for this application.

Communication from Joe Nehmer, Director of the Jefferson County Parks Department, Concerning the Pohlmann Park Silo:

Arbiture reported on the communication our commission received from Joe Nehmer, director of the Jefferson County Parks Department, regarding the cost estimate for the repair of the silo at Pohlmann Park. The Jefferson County Parks Department forwarded one quote to our commission for the cost of repair of the silo. That one quote came in at \$27,800. We agreed that we have done what we can as a commission to recommend that the silo be saved.

Tabling of Items 15 and 16 from the meeting agenda:

Opager made a motion to table items 15, the follow-up discussion on new commission members, and item 16, a report on barn preservation efforts, from our agenda, seconded by Birmingham. Motion carried by unanimous approval.

Public Hearing and Discussion and Possible Action of Nomination for Local Landmark Status for Jefferson County Potter's Field:

Birmingham stated that this is a public meeting and he gave an overview of the history of the Potter's Field and explained our commission's intent to move to have the Jefferson County Potter's Field

designated a Local Landmark. Birmingham invited the public to comment on our action in this matter. Arbiture asked if there are any objections to our actions on this matter. A motion was made by Opager that our commission move forward with this process, seconded by Birmingham. Motion carried by unanimous approval. The next step in this process is to make this matter a future agenda item so that our commission can make a resolution that can be forwarded to the Jefferson County Board. It was suggested that we use the language of our last resolution as a template.

Future Agenda Items:

Follow-up discussion on new commission members

Report on barn preservation efforts

Submission of Historic Preservation Fund Subgrant Application to the WHS

Action of nomination for Local Landmark Status for Jefferson County Potter's Field

Next Meeting Date: 7:00pm, October 20, 2016, location TBD

Adjourn: A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Birmingham, seconded by Opager, meeting adjourned at 9:25pm.

Submission of Meeting Minutes: Minutes of the meeting respectfully submitted by Julia Ince, secretary on September 17, 2016.